

Formation and usage of the imperative mood in English

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the formation and usage of the imperative mood in English.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The imperative sentence is mostly often addressed to the second person (you –вы, ты, Вы), therefore, as a rule, there is no subject in it. You refer to one person or several, you can understand only by context. Another feature is that, the imperative has no interrogative form, because we use it to “повелевать” rather than ask :-)

In order to ask, advise or order to do something, we use the infinitive without particle to.

Stand up! – Встань (-те)!

Stop talking! – Прекрати (-те) разговаривать!

Switch off the light. – Выключи (-те) свет.

Be quiet when you enter the lecture hall!

– Веди (-те) себя тихо, когда заходишь (-те) в аудиторию.

There is may be form of address in the imperative sentence. We should do not confuse it with the subject, it is not the same thing.

There is a form of address in the following sentences.

Akbarshoh, close the door. – Акбаршох, закрой дверь.

Rustam, walk the dog before dinner. – Рустам, выгуляй собаку перед ужином.

There is not a form of address in the following sentences. There is a subject and a predicate.

Akbarshoh closed the door. – Акбаршох закрыл дверь.

Rustam was walking the dog before dinner. – Рустам выгуливал собаку перед ужином.

If we need to use the two verbs in the imperative mood, we should put conjunction and between them.

- Go and tell Saidabegim to come back.
- Пойди скажи Сайдбегиму, чтобы она возвращалась.
- Sit down and have a rest, you look tired.
- Сядь отдохни, ты выглядишь уставшим.

With the help of the negative sentences, we will impose bans, ask or advise not to do anything. In order to form a negative sentence, we put at the beginning of the sentence the auxiliary verb do and the particle not (don't).

- Do not use cell phones here.
- Не пользуйтесь здесь мобильными телефонами.
- Don't come in, the floor is wet and slippery!
- Не входи, пол мокрый и скользкий!
- Don't bother her. She's in a bad mood.
- Не доставай ее. Она в плохом настроении.

The imperative mood has also polite forms.

The Britishmen do not want to seem rude and disrespectful. Therefore, they try to soften the imperative phrase and add the politeness word to it, such as please, just, if you don't mind. We can translate them as "пожалуйста", "если ты (Вы) не против".

- Please close the door.
- Пожалуйста, закройте дверь.
- Put the cup on the table, please.
- Поставь, пожалуйста, чашку на стол.
- Don't share this information with him, if you don't mind.
- Не сообщай ему об этом, если ты не против.
- Just buy two tickets to the cinema, please.
- Купи два билета в кино, пожалуйста.
- Please don't give my cat leftover chicken, if you don't mind.
- Пожалуйста, не давайте моей кошке остатки курицы, если Вы не против.

Another way to add politeness to the command is to make it a disjunctive question. Add “хвосток” to the sentence, and it will become an order of magnitude softer. The most common “хвостики” - will you, won’t you, can you.

You can read about this type of question in our article.

- You've almost succeeded. Take another effort, will you?
- У тебя почти получилось. Сделай еще одну попытку, хорошо?
- Don't mention it ever, will you?
- Не вспоминай об этом никогда, хорошо?
- Give me my glasses, can you?
- Можешь передать мне очки?
- Sometimes imperative mood is used, in order to propose or invite to somewhere(something).
- Have another cup of tea.
- Выпей еще одну чашечку чая.
- Come to my birthday party tonight.
- Приходи на празднование моего дня рождения сегодня вечером.

Imperative mood is also used with let.

If we need to turn to the first person (I - я, we - мы) or the third (he - он, she - она, it - оно, they - они), the verb let (to allow) comes for the help. If we talk about our action, after let will be followed by the pronoun me (мне).

- Let me buy you a present.
- Дай мне купить тебе подарок.
- Let me help you.
- Позволь мне помочь тебе.

If we invite someone to act together, then the verb let and the pronoun us (нам) form the let's form.

In the formal context, we will use the full form of the let us.

- Let's go to the cinema on Saturday.
- Давай пойдем в кино в субботу.
- Let us begin the annual conference on computer technologies.
- Позвольте нам открыть ежегодную конференцию по компьютерным технологиям.
- In oral speech, let's very often denotes the first person singular (I - я).
- Let's see what's with your hand.
- Дай я посмотрю, что с твоей рукой.
- We'll also use let's in short answers instead of yes when we respond to someone's offer.
- Shall we have a break in ten minutes?
- Сделаем перерыв через десять минут?
- Let's.
- Давай.

In negative sentences, there are two forms: let's not and don't let's, the second is considered more formal.

- Let's not forget to buy milk this time.

- Давай в этот раз не забудем купить молоко.
- Don't let's remind them of the failure.
- Давайте не будем напоминать им об этой неудаче.

In the third person, the pronouns he, she, it, they are transformed into him, her, it, them. We put them after the verb let. Also, let can be followed by a person's name or noun. Although it should be mentioned that with a third person the imperative mood is not so common as in English.

- Let your children have fun on the playground.
- Позволь детям повеселиться на площадке.
- Don't let Jill believe his words!
- Не позволяй Джил поверить его словам!
- The vase is expensive. Don't let it fall down.
- Ваза дорогая. Не дайте ей упасть.
- The imperative mood is used emotional forms also.

If our instruction is left without due attention, you can always add emotionality to it, for this we should use one of the following constructions:

Amplifying verb do. When you want to emphasize the importance of your request or order, use the amplifying verb do at the beginning of the sentence. In this case, do can perform two functions: show impatience or make the appeal polite and formal.

Do read this book!

- Обязательно прочитай эту книгу!
- Do stand up when you listen to the national anthem!
- Да встань же ты, когда слушаешь национальный гимн!
- Do take your places. We begin the play.
- Прошу занять ваши места. Мы начинаем представление.
- We can also use do without a verb in short answers.
- Can I take the book you told me about yesterday?
- Я могу взять книгу, о которой ты мне вчера рассказал?
- Do, it's on the shelf.
- Бери, она на полке.

Imperative mood is also used with the subject. If you want to add a strong emotional coloring to your statement, put the subject you before the verb.

- You leave him alone!
- Да оставь ты его в покое!
- You get out of here now!
- Сейчас же убирайся отсюда!
- In negative sentences you may precede before or after don't.
- You don't go, I'll be there in a minute!
- Не смей никуда уходить, я буду там через минуту!
- Don't you touch the pictures in the gallery!
- Не смей трогать картины в галерее!

As a subject we can use also someone/somebody (кто-то), everyone/everybody (все), no one / nobody (никто).

- She is going to pass out. Somebody call a doctor!
- Она сейчас потеряет сознание. Кто-нибудь, вызовите врача!
- Nobody move! It's a robbery!
- Никому не двигаться! Это ограбление!

Imperative mood is also used with an adverb. We can strengthen our sentence with the adverbs always (всегда) and never (никогда), which we put before the verb.

- Always wash up after dinner.
- Всегда мой посуду после ужина.
- Never tell her your secrets. She's a gossip.
- Никогда не рассказывай ей своих секретов. Она сплетница.

2. CONCLUSION

Strictly speaking, the imperative mood can only be used in the second person because the person commanded must be the person spoken to. But by using ‘let’ a similar idea can be expressed with the first and third person pronouns.

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